

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12256 240453Z

ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1286

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12256

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. OUR CONSULAR SECTION IS BEING VISITED DAILY BY AN ELDERLY LITHUANIAN NAMED ALEKSANDRAS ALEKSANDROVICH SKOPAS, WHO WAS BORN MARCH 28, 1898, IN VIZORIAI, PACVOLCKY RAION, LITHUANIA SSR. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE A WIFE AND FIVE CHILDREN IN US AND SAYS THAT HIS WIFE, ELVIRA SKOPAS, OF 1630 SOUTH 51ST COURT, CICERO, IL 55060, WHO HAS LIVED THIRTY-THREE YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, HAS INVITED HIM TO JOIN HER. WE HAVE TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO EXPLAIN THE PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING EXIT PERMISSION, INCLUDING THE NECESSITY OF A PROPERLY PREPARED INVITATION FROM A US RELATIVE. HE EITHER CANNOT OR WILL NOT UNDERSTAND. DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE HAS NO FOREIGN TRAVEL PASSPORT OR INVITATION FROM THE EMBASSY, HE COMES AND GOES PAST THE MILITIA WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. BECAUSE OF HIS ADVANCE AGE AND GENERAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STATE, WE DOUBT THAT HE IS A PLANT. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MILITIA HAVE CHOSEN TO LET HIM IN AS RESPONSE TO OUR FREQUENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT REFUSAL TO PERMIT ACCESS TO EMBASSY BY SOVIET CITIZENS.

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2. IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD TRY TO CONTACT MRS SKOPAS, FIND OUT WHETHER SHE WISHES HER HUSBAND TO JOIN HER IN THE US AND, IF SO, ACQUAINT HER WITH THE PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BOTH AN INVITATION AND AN INS PETITION. TOON

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